

VIETNAM VET "GAZETTE"

Issue 155

Together Then Together Now

August 2015



In Service to America

Up-Coming Meetings

BOD Meeting

2nd Wed of the Month

5:00 PM

Regular Meeting

VVA meet @ 7:00 PM

at the

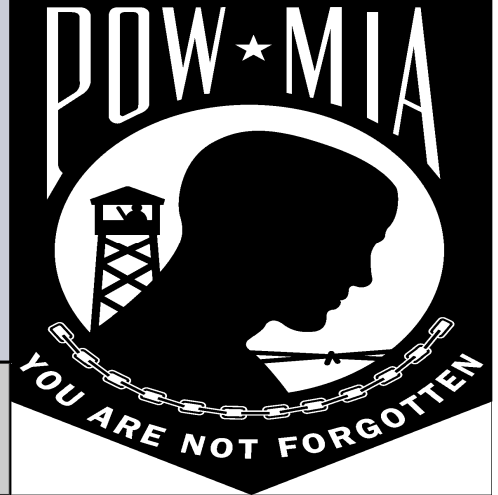
ROCHESTER VFW

VVA 862 Picnic will be on the 19th

Be Sure To See

Important Dates to Remember

Upcoming Events— Page 19



2015 VVA National Convention

The 2015 VVA National Convention and AVVA National Convention were held on July 21-26 in Springfield, Illinois. Seven members from our Chapter attended. Larry Googins, Jake Barsottini, Phillip Morris, Michelle Wilcox & Terri Carr represented VVA. Bobbie Morris & Carl Curtis represented AVVA.

The Convention opened with an inspiring and memorable keynote speech by former POW William A. Robinson. While serving as a crew chief aboard a USAF Rescue helicopter, Airman First Class William A. Robinson was shot down and captured in Ha Tinh Province, North Vietnam, on September 20, 1965. After a brief stint at the "Hanoi Hilton" prison, Robinson endured 2,703 days in multiple North Vietnamese prison camps, including the notorious "Briarpatch" and various compounds, known by the POWs as the "Zoo." No enlisted man in American military history has been held as a POW longer than Robinson. For seven and a half years, he faced daily privations and endured the full range of the North Vietnam's torture program.

The remaining days were spent attending national committee meetings on VVA constitutional changes and VVA National Resolutions. Another primary objective is the biennial election of VVA National Officers. As a result, the four current officers were re-elected for another two years: President John Rowan, Vice-President Marsha Four, Secretary Bill Meeks, and Treasurer Wayne Reynolds. Also, nine regional directors and eleven at-large directors were either elected or re-elected to complete the National Board of Directors.

During the convention, several state, chapter and individual awards are announced and presented. One of the chapter awards is the membership growth award, which is given to the chapters that have the largest increase in membership during the previous fiscal year. There are seven categories of chapters based on their membership size, ranging from (a minimum of) 25 to 700 (or more) members. I am pleased to announce that **Chapter 862 received the National Membership Growth Award** for the 601-700 member category (see photo on page 7). This is a result of the continued work of many members of our chapter in recruiting new veterans and maintaining our current members through our life membership drives. Great job everyone!

Overall, the National Convention was a success. The VVA National Constitution was updated and some important Resolutions were either made or ratified to plot our course for future years. Our chapter delegates attended multiple committee meetings and now have a better idea about the function of our national organization. I think that everyone noticed some good functional areas and some others that need urgent attention. Jake Barsottini and I, representing PA State Council, will attend the next VVA National Committee meetings in Silver Spring, MD in October and see if the "pre-election promises" are being addressed.

Thanks again for the great work and "Welcome Home."

Larry J. Googins, President

Chapter 862 Officers & Committees
(All 724 Area Codes unless noted)

Executive Officers

Larry Googins.....President.....869-7090
 Bill Laughner.....Exec VP.....601-3597
 Rich Kamzelski ...1st VP.....494-5752
 Cliff Hawes.....2nd VP 728-5065
 Lee Corfield.....Secretary775-3027
 Jake Barsottini...Treasurer.....601-7293

Board of Directors

Gary Shaffer3.....643-8941
 Rich Tindell3.....622-0724
 Pete Herman.....3.....712-4324
 Michelle Wilcox2.....847-3463
 Don Villella2.....843-7401
 Philip Morris.....2.....643-5725
 Chuck Inman.....1.....709-7747
 Rich Raich.....1.....412-974-6282
 Nick Pavkovich.....1.....847-0592

Delegates

Bill Laughner601-3597
 Lee Corfield.....775-3027
 Larry Googins.....869-7090
 Philip Morris.....643-5725
 Chuck Inman.....709-7747
 Terri Carr330-692-1849
 Pete Herman.....712-4324
 Jake Barsottini.....601-7293
 Ray Rapp.....316-6786
 Michelle Wilcox847-3463
 Nick Pavkovich847-0592

Standing Committees

Agent Orange / Dioxin

Mike Coligure412-613-1810

Community Services

Chuck Inman709-7747

Finance

Bill Winkle.....774-2626

Government Affairs

Bart Farzati777-2193

Membership

Gary Shaffer.....643-8941

Minority Affairs

Reuben Fuller378-4990

POW / MIA

Phil Morris643-5725

PTSD / Substance Abuse

Rich McCracken.....266-4914

Public Affairs

(Vacant)

Veterans Affairs / Benefits / Advisor

Kathy Nairn770-4450

Woman Veterans

Michelle Wilcox847-3463

**POW / MIA - Information taken from the
National League of POW/MIA Families**

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: There still has been no published change to the number unaccounted-for since the April 10th Update. For various reasons, including wishes of the family, DoD announcements are often delayed far beyond the ID dates, and others are likely pending. Several of those named this year were examples of how remains repatriated many years ago can now be identified using contemporary science that wasn't available in earlier years. The number of Americans now listed by DoD as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 956. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and identified before the end of the war, bring the total of US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War to 1,019. Of the **1,627 still unaccounted-for**, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,269 (VN-467, VS-802); Laos-302; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These country-specific numbers can and do fluctuate due to investigations resulting in changed locations of loss. The League seeks the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains.

NEW DPAA DIRECTOR NAMED & NOW MOVING FORWARD

LTG (ret) Mike Linnington, USA, the new permanent Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), was named just before the League's 46th Annual Meeting. While always cautious to not overstate support for people named to positions of responsibility in the POW/MIA accounting mission, it is no overstatement to recognize his outstanding, varied background that is explained more fully in the upcoming League Newsletter.

Important now are the several steps he has already taken that clearly reveal he is moving energetically, though thoughtfully, to follow directives issued by former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to "completely reorganize" the POW/MIA accounting community. While structural change is always rife with turmoil and uncertainty, as the League has experienced repeatedly, Mr. Linnington is moving out smartly. His restructure plans dramatically move the mission forward and, importantly, adhere to Secretary Hagel's directive to "build on the existing strengths" of the accounting community. As a result, he is moving beyond the recommendations he received from Vice Admiral Michael Franken, USN, whose vision for DPAA related more to a concept for production of "products" than to a viable plan to pursue accounting objectives for missing US personnel and their families.

Already confirmed is that former JPAC Detachments in Thailand, Vietnam and Laos will continue to be Detachments 1, 2 and 3, respectively, reporting to the incoming Deputy Director (an active-duty Army Brigadier General) who will likely be announced next week.

POW News (cont on Page 3)

VVA 862 COMMITTEES (Cont)**Special Committees****Color/Honor Guards**

Ray Litzinger.....378-5855

Homeless Veterans

Bill Porupsky 495-7051

Newsletter / Webmaster

Lee Corfield..... 775-3027

Nominating / Scholarship

Lon Hogue 846-8857

Veterans Assistance

Bill Laughner..... 601-3597

Other Positions**Chaplain**

Don Villella 843-7401

AVVA 862 - Officers

President..Bobbie Morris...643-5725

V.P. Marji Slawianowski...378-7315

Secretary .Veronica Grant...462-3717

Treasurer .Sue Bridgewater. 643-0731

AVVA BOD

Keith Black.....513-3177

Carl Curtis.....869-0294

Sandy Giordano.....203-4569

Parliamentarian

Veronica Grant462-3717

Chaplain

Barb Googins..... 869-7090

Membership

Susan Smith728-6741

POW News (cont from Page 2)

The long-serving, indispensable civilian specialists in the Detachments are expected to be extended. The small contingent of personnel deployed to support operations in Europe will also continue to be a Liaison Office, possibly reporting to a European Regional Director. The placement in the new structure of the Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD) is not yet known, but has unique status within DPAA due to also supporting the work of the US-Russia Joint Commission (USRJC) on POW/MIA Affairs.

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A symposium will be held in Hawaii, immediately following the "Blessing & Dedication Ceremony) on July 27th. This symposium will provide an opportunity for the DPAA leadership, including all Directors and Deputies, to utilize the newly improved restructure and sort out the sub-structure, moving tasks as needed, but getting to a nearly finalized structure. I look forward to seeing that product.

Chairman's Comment: Mike Linnington knows he has a very challenging road ahead to earn the trust of a dedicated and talented workforce, as well as add the kind of people he wants and can depend on to move DPAA forward. He is moving NOW and already has learned far more than one would expect after such a very short time in the position. He pledged at the League's 46th Annual Meeting that he is in this for the long haul and knows it will take time, but asked for support, assistance and patience as he tackles the challenges. I'm convinced that he really is the right guy and this is the right time.

Right now truly is the accounting mission's last chance to move forward with the priority required, fully supported by State and DoD policy and resourced with funding and personnel required. There will be NO further such opportunities, precisely the reason I'm determined to ensure that Mike Linnington gets all the support and assistance he needs from the many honest, caring and determined people working in the accounting community, and not be influenced by the self-serving, insecure people who are likely doing their best to remain in positions they should not hold.

POW News (cont on Page 6)

Minutes from July 15, 2015 meeting

Called to order by President Larry Googins @ 7:00 PM

Opening Prayer by Chaplain Don Villella.

Attendance was “ 130 “

Pledge of Allegiance

VVA Motto: “Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another”

Roll Call of Officers – 13 - Present 0 - Absent 2 - Excused

Introduction of Guests - Stephanie Starr, Chuck Slaney, Jim Janicki, Joe Gidenich, Dick Shannon,

Call for Veterans “Sick or In Distress” – Ray Litzinger, Bob Grant,

Secretary’s Report: Minutes: Were accepted as read.

Communications - All communications were read.

Newsletter - All newsletters were mailed out to all the VSO’s in our area.

Website - Lee gave an update on what is going on with our Website.

Treasurer’s Report: was read by Treasurer Jake Barsottini Approved

Larry spoke about accepting a \$1,000 check from 1st Energy last Monday for the Support Our Troops Rally which went really well. We will have approximately \$1,500 from the Rally for our veterans.

Motions Recommended by the BOD

- (1) Motion was made by John Szatkiewicz, 2nd by John Shepard to split the cost of a High Speed Scanner with PASC. Cost is \$512.36, 1/2 would be **(\$256.18)** Motion Carried.
- (2) Motion was made by Frank Petz, 2nd by Dave Marchetti to donate **\$250.00** to the VFW National Home for Children Motion Carried.
- (3) Motion was made by Bill Harlow, 2nd by Terri Carr to purchase a brick at Kokomo in honor of deceased member Sal Tonti at a cost of **\$25.00**. Motion Carried.
- (4) Motion was made by Luke Patrino 2nd by Sam Giordano to authorize **\$1,000** for the upcoming VVA 862 picnic. Motion Carried.
- (5) Motion was made by Dave Marchetti 2nd by Clem Blazewick to donate **\$100.00** to the LST 325 Bus trip from Beaver County. Motion Carried.

Committee Reports:

Agent Orange - Mike Coligure - Spoke about an issue with a few veterans who had a problem with the VA. Q & A was held with several members.

Government Affairs - Bart Farzati - Bart explained what the VA covers pertaining to Agent Orange. The Maps mean nothing. If you were in Vietnam for a minute, that makes you service connected. The fight for the Blue Water Navy Veterans still continues. Bart spoke about the VA Accountability Act. Bart also held a Q & A.

POW MIA - Phil Morris - Phil stated that there are still 1627 left still MIA. They are still searching with JAPAC organization/ POW Ride will be Sept 12, leaving from The Rochester VFW.

Honor Guard - Rich Raich - Rich reported on recent funerals we did, events He spoke about the events we attended. Relay 4 Life, It’s About the Warrior.

Women’s Veterans - Michelle Wilcox spoke - about an article in the Newsletter concerning Breast Cancer.

Minutes (cont on Page 5)

Minutes con't from Page 4

Veterans Assistance - Bill Laughner - Bill spoke about a Handicap Ramp that was made available from/ by Frank Campagna. Rich Tindell and a team went and removed it and then installed it at another Veterans home. Bill also spoke about the upcoming BCCI Gun Bash and that we need more members to take tickets. BCCI is honoring four Veterans Organizations, (1) Crusaders in America, (2) Legacies Alive, (3) It's About The Warrior Foundation, and (4) VVA Chapter 862. He also spoke about an upcoming bow hunter's trip (all expenses paid) for a Vietnam Veteran that is being offered to one of our chapter members from Crusaders in America. If there is anyone interested, Please contact Bill Laughner

Presidents Report: - Larry spoke about the upcoming Chapter Sponsored Events. Next meeting will be August 12th at 7:00 PM. Which will be the 2nd Wednesday. The 3rd Wednesday in August will be our VVA 862 Picnic at Industry Park. Larry mentioned the Veterans Breakfast Club holding a breakfast at Seven Oaks CC which will be sponsored by our chapter. There will be a \$100.00 Life Membership Offer starting August 1st. See Gary Shaffer. Larry also explained the flag hanging up front for the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative Celebration, of which our chapter is a partner.

Exec VP Bill Laughner - Bill spoke about the Hookstown Fair and how we participate, and the times. If you want to work the booth, please sign up soon..

1st VP Rich Kamzelski - Excused

2nd VP Cliff Hawes - Cliff spoke about the upcoming Duck Race and where we stand on the Duck Ticket Sales. He needs help this coming Sunday.

AVVA - Bobbie Morris - AVVA 143 / 56 LIFE Members. She spoke about Kathy Romero . AVVA is also going to do a Membership Drive from Nov to Dec. She spoke about the Tom Robes and Cancer Relief Fund.

50/50 was won by Skip Haskell. Several members won U S Flags donated by Pat Catan's. Agent Orange Balloon Release will be Nov 11th. Time will be announced at a later date.

New Business:

Nick Pavkovich spoke about how he and Michelle Wilcox took the Chapter Veterans Service Officers training and are now allowed to assist members with filing out there claims.

Dave Marchetti spoke about the VFW Convention and the Patriot Paws Association.

Motion was made by Don Vilella and 2nd by Bob Migwa to donate \$100.00 to the Patriot Paws. Motion Carried.

Good of the Chapter:

On Sept 5th VFW Natrona Heights will be a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Event. Everything is Free.

Jerry Fisher spoke about a Veterans Appreciation event that Keith Rothfus is having in North Park on August 3rd from 6 PM to 8 PM. Also Vets Breakfast Club is having a breakfast at the 911th on September 11th

Motion to adjourn by Michelle Wilcox, 2nd by Jake Barsottini. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Lee Corfield - VVA 862 Secretary

Death Notices

Detmar C. "Pap" Starr 94 of Ross Twp. Pap was the father of Mary Battista, who is the wife of VVA 862 member Leroy Battista. "Pap" served with the U S Navy during WWII.

Gary Lee Myers - 72 of Center Twp. Gary passed away on July 29th, 2015. He served with the U S Navy in Vietnam

May They Rest In Peace

POW News (cont from Page 3)

We all should be grateful to Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Christine Wormuth for selecting a person like Mike Linnington who is self-confident, but not a know-it-all, who isn't afraid to be seen as learning, which he is doing in spades. Yes, he has much to learn, and many self-serving people still surround him, so dangers persist, but many are trying in every possible way to help him gain solid, objective insights.

Finally, I attended LTG Linnington's retirement on June 17th and had talked with him many times in his advisory role to Under Secretary Wormuth, VADM Franken and Maj Gen Kelly McKeague relating to the "complete reorganization" of the entire community. As a result, I can attest to the esteem in which he is held by a broad cross-section of military and civilian personnel. From the lowest level to those at the top, all seem to genuinely like and admire him. Mr. Linnington was sworn in on Monday, June 22nd, as the civilian Senior Executive Service Level 3 Director of DPAA. It is my hope, prayer and expectation that he will work to achieve the objectives we share, and do so with honor, integrity, humility, dedication, energy and determination. That is all we can ask. All we should expect is his very best effort, and we do, but he will also need our full support and that of all POW/MIA-related personnel, especially the demoralized former JPAC, DPMO and LSEL personnel now in DPAA. Therefore, we, the Vietnam War families and our many concerned Veteran organizations, individual veterans and civilian supporters, ask all dedicated accounting community personnel – especially the experienced civilian core – to set aside the justifiable frustrations and obstacles you have endured for far too many years and focus on what is possible with our new DPAA Director. I honestly believe DPAA truly can become the central accounting focus we all have sorely missed since 1992 – a cohesive, interagency US Government priority that will, with the support of all, achieve the fullest possible accounting. This longstanding, entirely reasonable League objective is defined as 1) the missing man returned alive; or 2) his remains recovered and identified; or 3) convincing evidence as to why neither is possible, in which case he will remain forever as unrecovered, but all information will be provided to the next-of-kin who will then have the certainty of knowing the US Government did its very best to bring him home to his family and our Nation.

46TH ANNUAL MEETING: The June 24-27th meeting was the largest, most comprehensive and compelling annual meeting in years. The Hilton sold out, responses from senior leaders were positive, and official animosity toward the League seems to have disappeared in favor of a partnership not seen since 1992. A full report will be in the upcoming League Newsletter. Until July 18, 1979, no commemoration was held to honor America's POW/MIAs, those returned and those still missing and unaccounted for from our nation's wars. That first year, resolutions were passed in the Congress and the national ceremony was held at the National Cathedral, Washington, DC. The Missing Man Formation was flown by the 1st Tactical Squadron, Langley AFB, Virginia. The Veterans Administration published a poster with the letters "POW/MIA" and that format was continued until 1982, when a black and white drawing of a POW in harsh captivity was used to convey the urgency of the situation and the priority that President Ronald Reagan assigned to achieving the fullest possible accounting for Americans still missing from the Vietnam War. For the next ten years, the various renditions of the American Eagle, by artist and Vietnam Veteran Tom Nielsen, came to symbolize America's POW/MIAs and our nation's efforts to bring them home.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day legislation was introduced yearly until 1995 when Congress opted to discontinue considering legislation to designate special commemorative days. Since then, the President has signed an annual proclamation. In the early years, the date was routinely set in close proximity to the League's annual meetings. In the mid-1980's, the American Ex-POWs decided that they wished to see the date established as April 9th, the date during World War II when the largest number of Americans were captured. As a result, legislation urged by the American Ex-POWs was passed covering two years, July 20, 1984, as initially proposed, and April 9, 1985, the latter of which had to be cancelled due to inclement weather, a concern that had been expressed with the proposed April 9th date.

POW News (cont on Page 7)

POW News (cont from Page 6)

The 1984 National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony was held at the White House, hosted by President Reagan. At this most impressive ceremony, the Reagan Administration balanced the focus to honor all returned POWs and renew national commitment to accounting as fully as possible for those still missing. Perhaps the most impressive Missing Man Formation ever flown was that year, up the Ellipse and directly over the White House.

Subsequently, in an effort to accommodate all returned POWs and all Americans still missing and unaccounted for from all wars, the League proposed the third Friday in September, a date not associated with any particular war, not in conjunction with any organization's national convention and a time when weather nationwide is usually moderate? Most national ceremonies have been held at the Pentagon; however, in addition to the July 20, 1984, White House ceremony noted above, the September 19, 1986, national ceremony was held on the steps of the U.S. Capitol facing the National Mall, also concluding with a flight of high performance military aircraft in Missing Man Formation.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies are now held throughout the nation and around the world on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, at schools, churches, national veteran and civic organizations, police and fire departments, fire stations, etc. The League's POW/MIA flag is flown and the focus is to ensure that America remembers its responsibility to stand behind those who serve our Nation and do everything possible to account for those who do not return.

On Saturday September 12, 2015 Vietnam Veterans Chapter 862 and Rochester, PA VFW will host their annual **POW/MIA Motor Cycle Run thru** out Beaver Country, Where a Memorial Service will be held at the Vietnam Memorial Beaver, Pa. at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Respectful Submitted;

Philip Morris

Chairman, POW/MIA , VVA - 862

**2015
Vietnam Veterans
of America

National
Membership Award**



Senator Vogel Seeking Local Photos for District Calendar

While admitting that he's definitely biased on the issue, Senator Elder Vogel believes his 47th Senatorial District is one of the most scenic and picturesque areas of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and he's looking for photos that capture the area's spirit and beauty.

Senator Vogel is holding a photo contest in which the work of the winners will be featured in a 2016 "Scenes from the 47th Senatorial District" calendar.

Contestants can submit **two photos per category** of their favorite shots. The categories are: **spring, summer, fall and winter**. The contest is open to all individuals, both children and adults, but photos must have been taken within the boundaries of the 47th District. The contest will remain open for submissions until August 31. Voting will take place in September with the winners to be announced in October.

"From rolling farms to bustling main streets, the picturesque vistas throughout the many boroughs and townships that make up my senate district are a photographer's dream," Senator Vogel said. "It's that little old church you drive by each day or an eagle nesting above the river, the annual parade or a school sporting event. I want you to share the local sights and scenes that you capture with your 47th Senate District neighbors."

More information and the entry form are available at

<http://www.senatoreldervogel.com/photo-contest/>.



**I want your
best photos of the
47th Senate District!**

**Winners will be featured in
2016 calendar
DEADLINE: SEPT. 1 2015**

www.SenatorElderVogel.com/photo-contest



Associates of Vietnam Veterans Chapter 862

July 15, 2015



A regular meeting of the AVVA Chapter 862 was called to order by President Bobbie Morris at 6:00 p.m. with a word of prayer by Chaplain Barb Googins, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the POW/MIA.

All Officers and Board Members were present.

President Morris welcomed Kathy Romero a new member to AVVA.

Vice President Marji Slawianowski will contact the Butler VA Medical Center to set up a party with the veterans.

Sue Bridgewater, Treasurer gave the Treasurers report. Treasurer's report approved pending audit.

A motion to accept the minutes of June 17, 2015 as corrected was made by Sandy Giordano and seconded by Sue Bridgewater. Motion carried.

Membership Chair Veronica Grant reported that our Chapter has 143 members and 56 are life members. Chapter 862 is #4 in the top 25 chapters. As of the July meeting Sue Smith will be the new Membership Chair.

Starting November 1st thru December 31st there will be a Fire Sale for Life Memberships for the cost of only \$100.00 for current **paid** members and new members. There is **NO AGE LIMIT!** A motion was made by Donna Corfield and seconded by Sandy Giordano that the Chapter pay \$25.00 toward each Life Membership during the Fire Sale only. Motion carried.

Historian Sandy Giordano needs photos from Support the Troops Rally, Maple Syrup Festival and the upcoming picnic.

A motion to donate \$150.00 to the Michigan Marine Riders for the VFW National Home for Children was made by Sandy Giordano and seconded by Sue Bridgewater. Motion carried.

A motion to donate \$100.00 to the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association for Veterans Homeless Initiative was made by Sandy Giordano and seconded by Marji Slawianowski. Motion carried.

A motion to reimburse Judy Hage \$25.31 for tickets for the 50/50 raffle was made by Linda Szatkiewicz and seconded by Barb Googins. Motion carried.

Christmas fundraiser was tabled till next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm; the next meeting will be September 16, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. at the VFW Post 128 in Rochester, PA.

Submitted by,

Veronica Grant

Veronica Grant,
Secretary, Chapter 862

DRAFT UNTL APPROVED

KOKOMO VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION SEPTEMBER 16th - 20th, 2015**NOTICE TO ALL VVA 862 MEMBERS HEADED TO KOKOMO!****Updated list of room reservations for Kokomo as of July 2nd, 2015****Check in Wed Sept. 17, Check out Sunday Sept 20th.**

1. Skip Haskell, double/double
2. William Stokes, double/double
3. William Stokes, double/double
4. John McPherson, double/double, rollout
5. Aaron Johnson, double/double
6. Luke Patrino, double/double Balcony
7. Luke Patrino, double/double Balcony
8. Ron Gardner, double/double
9. Rich Raich, double/double
10. Laughner, Laughner 2nd Floor Suite
11. Larry Googins, double/double
12. Frank, Ralph, Rick double/double rollout
13. Lee & Sean Corfield 3rd Floor Suite
14. Joe Feltz, double/double 1st Floor handicapped
15. Snakedog & Larry Tanner double/double
16. Roy Barlett double/double
17. Anthony Pallatto King Bed
18. Clem Blazewick/Jim Fisher Double/double
19. Don Vilella double/double
20. John Szatkiewicz double/double
21. Tom Cekovich King

Check in Thursday Sept. 17

1. Rich Gillin Double/double

Check in Friday Sept. 18

1. Bob Uznack Double/double
2. Barry Beitsinger king

NOTE!

PLEASE REVIEW THE ABOVE LIST TO MAKE SURE I HAVE YOUR INFORMATION CORRECT . IF NOT CORRECT EMAIL ME AT wlaugh@comcast.net .

WILLIAM G. LAUGHNER

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO OUR
MEMBERS**
August

Tom Preston.....	Aug 1
David Walker.....	Aug 1
Julia Dever.....	Aug 2
Franklin Pettit.....	Aug 2
James Wolfe.....	Aug 2
Jay Alstadt.....	Aug 3
John Haas.....	Aug 3
Lon Hogue.....	Aug 3
Edward Moore.....	Aug 3
Gary Palyszeski.....	Aug 3
Henry Rousseau.....	Aug 4
Theodore Rutkowski.....	Aug 4
Maitland Fraser.....	Aug 6
Rich Hogue.....	Aug 7
Ginger Muns.....	Aug 7
Nick Pavkovich.....	Aug 7
Carl Rectenwald.....	Aug 7
Carl Vincent.....	Aug 8
Joe Bemnowski.....	Aug 9
Rose Kelly.....	Aug 9
Rich Webster.....	Aug 9
David Brailey.....	Aug 10
Dean Carte.....	Aug 10
Linda Moore.....	Aug 10
Al Mixon.....	Aug 10
Al Martin.....	Aug 11
Mike Kidder.....	Aug 12
Richard Sutton.....	Aug 13
Roger Scatton.....	Aug 13
George Gillin.....	Aug 15
Dan DeFloria.....	Aug 15
France Karas.....	Aug 15
Roger Chabot.....	Aug 16

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO OUR
MEMBERS**
August

Jim Dowarth.....	Aug 17
Vincent Heider.....	Aug 17
Jack Jamison.....	Aug 17
Jacob Sokolowski.....	Aug 17
Larry Tanner.....	Aug 19
Bill Manners.....	Aug 20
Mike Ochoa.....	Aug 20
Lee Corfield.....	Aug 21
Dante Decanini.....	Aug 21
Earl Lee.....	Aug 21
Jim Fischer.....	Aug 22
David Allen.....	Aug 23
Luther Burrows Jr.....	Aug 23
William Lloyd.....	Aug 23
Bob Hardman.....	Aug 23
Dave Mehera.....	Aug 23
Dan Reznik.....	Aug 23
Harold Travis Jr.....	Aug 23
Don Cripe.....	Aug 24
Bob Reott.....	Aug 24
Joe Grimm.....	Aug 25
John Klimovich.....	Aug 25
Rudy Zetz Jr.....	Aug 26
Mike Oakey.....	Aug 26
Herman Clingenpool.....	Aug 27
Dave Kost.....	Aug 27
Ray Rapp.....	Aug 28
Dave Sciaretta.....	Aug 28
Deb Bowers.....	Aug 29
Sam Giordano.....	Aug 29
Dan Neal.....	Aug 30
Bob Harding.....	Aug 31

Lee's Tid Bits:

Wow! What a summer!

Busy Busy Busy!

I have to say "Hats Off" to the committee that has taken care of the **BCCI Event** every year. This was my first chance to attend and take part in the "Opening Ceremony." It was nice having John Dudo's son and another fellow from the Merchant Marines Academy take part also. I have been to many Gun Bash's around the area but nothing as organized as this one. What an Ending with Donnie Iris & the Cruiser's. You can tell this wasn't their first Rodeo. A lot of time and effort goes into this every year and it shows.

Now as we move into August, we continue with our VVA 862 activities :

**Aug 12 VVA BOD Meet 5:00 PM
VVA 862 Meet 7:00 PM**

**Aug 14 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice
6:00 PM Midland VFW**

**Aug 19 VVA 862 Chapter Picnic
3:00 PM @ Industry Park**

**Aug 21 - 23 Beaver River Regatta
(Opening 6:00 PM)**

Aug 25 - 29 "Hookstown Fair" VVA Booth

**Aug 29 VVA 862 "Duck Race"
6:00 PM @ Fair**

These events will be brought up at our upcoming meeting. They will be needing help.

Lee

*Next VVA 862 Meeting
August 12th - 7:00 PM*

Once in a LIFETIME Membership Offer (**Now in PROGRESS**)

Starting the first of August, we're making a Once in a Lifetime Membership offer. Until December 31,

"You" can purchase a Vietnam Veterans of America Life Membership for **just \$100**. There are no age restrictions, no small print, no contingencies. It's that simple. This has never happened before. It probably won't happen again.

Send us \$100 by check with your "Transfer Slip" and you will be made a life member of VVA 862 here in Southwestern, PA.

Eligibility hasn't changed. Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975.

This deal applies **only to those who apply for life membership between August 1 and December 31 of this year.**

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be no refunds for those who applied before August 1, and no discounts for those who apply after the end of the year.

If you've been considering becoming a life member, now is the time to act. It's such a good deal that even if you haven't considered a life membership, you should take advantage of this limited-time offer.

AVVA also is offering a reduction in life membership dues.

VA News Release

VA Expands Review of Chemical Exposure in Drinking Water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

08/03/2015 06:40 PM EDT

WASHINGTON – As part of VA’s ongoing commitment to provide care to Veterans and their families, the Department of Veterans Affairs today announced that it will start the process of amending its regulations to establish presumptions of service connection for certain conditions resulting from exposure to contaminated drinking water at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

This process is in addition to the healthcare VA already provides for 15 conditions to eligible Veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987 as a result of the Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012. VA also provides reimbursement of healthcare expenses for those 15 conditions to eligible family members who resided at Camp Lejeune during that time period.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs recently met with Senators Isakson, Burr and Tillis and the Director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to discuss the creation of presumptions of service connection for diseases associated with the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. The diseases that are currently being reviewed for potential presumptive service connection include kidney cancer, angiosarcoma of the liver, and acute myelogenous leukemia, which are known to be related to long-term exposure to the chemicals that were in the water at Lejeune from the 1950s through 1987. The chemicals are Benzene, Vinyl Chloride, Trichloroethylene and Perchloroethylene, which are known as volatile organic compounds, used in industrial solvents and components of fuels. ATSDR and VA representatives will meet at ATSDR offices on August 19 to begin discussions on establishing these presumptions.

VA will also work with ATSDR and potentially the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate the body of scientific knowledge and research related to exposure to these chemicals and the subsequent development of other diseases. VA will carefully consider all public comments received when determining the final scope of any presumptions.

Veterans with health problems they believe are related to exposure to the water at Camp Lejeune may file a claim for disability compensation online at www.ebenefits.va.gov, or call 1-800-827-1000 for assistance.

For more information, Veterans and family members should contact the nearest VA healthcare facility by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visit www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune. For further information on Camp Lejeune: VHA Office of Public Health has a Website on Camp Lejeune historical water contamination at: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp.

The U.S. Marine Corps encourages all those who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune before 1987 to register for notifications regarding Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water at <https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/elwater>.

If you have friends that were at Camp Lejeune and are not members of VVA Chapter 862, you may want to spread the word.

VVA CHAPTER 862 IS ACCEPTING ORDERS for memorial walkway bricks to be placed at the Vietnam Memorial in Beaver. You may honor Veterans of the armed services, loved ones and friends (*both living and deceased*) with an "In Memory of" brick. You may also want to honor your American Legion post, your Veterans of Foreign Wars post and/or all Veterans Service Organizations. Orders are accepted year round, with placement every spring and fall. Engraving is donated by Rome Monument in honor of county veterans.

Brick Walkway Order Form

Please PRINT all information clearly in BLUE or BLACK ink only.

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

contact telephone number: _____

2 Sizes Available (*check one*) Checks payable to: **VVA CHAPTER 862**

8" x 4" **\$75**
 3 lines,
 13 characters*

8" x 8" **\$200**
 6 lines,
 13 characters*

* includes punctuation and spaces

Mail completed forms to:
William Laughner
119 Jonathan Drive
Darlington, PA 16115

Please Note:

The views and opinions are solely that of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions or policies of the Vietnam Veterans of America, (National, State or Local).

All articles written by the editor unless otherwise stated.

Submissions will be gladly accepted by the editor

Lee Corfield - Editor VVA 862 Beaver Co., Pa
140 Knob Vue Drive
Freedom, Pa. 15042

We reserve the right to edit submissions as space allows.

Veterans Court

Larry Googins is one of the Mentors and is very familiar with what is going on with the Beaver County Veterans Court and how it works.

These cases are handled by Judge Kim Tesla.

"We need more Mentors"
to assist with these cases.

If you are interested in becoming a Mentor,
Please contact Larry Googins
724-869-7090

or

Email - ljgoogins.vva862@comcast.net



Save the Date

Sunday, October 25, 2015
Soldiers & Sailors
Memorial Hall
5th Avenue @ Bigelow
Blvd.
7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

**The United States
Navy Band, The
Commodores,
are performing in
Pittsburgh, PA
for FREE**



THE UNITED STATES
NAVY BAND
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The US Navy Band, The Commodores, is an internationally acclaimed jazz band that has performed at the White House and various places *all over the world.*

Please mark your calendars and inform your family, friends and various other organization affiliations both military and non-military.

For more information, please contact:
John Ayers at 412-665-6790
or email: Joayers@pa.gov





**CVMA CHAPTER 22-2
and
VFW POST 894
are having a**



“WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS” CELEBRATION

TO COMMEMORATE THE

“50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War”

**YOU ARE INVITED TO HELP US HONOR AND THANK OUR
VIETNAM VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES, INCLUDING THE PRISONERS OF WAR
AND THOSE LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION FOR THEIR SERVICE
AND SACRIFICE ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Event is Open to All Veterans, Their Families and the Public!

All Profit Will be Donated to: CANINE COMPANIONS — SERVICE PETS FOR SERVICE VETS

LOCATION:

**VFW PAVILION
894 VETERANS LANE
NATRONA HGTS, PA 15065**

TIME:

11:00 am - 6:00 pm

DATE:

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2015

Entertainment

Food

Beer

Chinese Auction

50/50 Drawing

Face Painting



AVVA/VVA 862 Picnic

Date: August 19th, 2015

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Industry Park

Bocci Horseshoes Volleyball

Bring you favorite Covered Dish.

Please contact Phil Morris if you're bringing a Covered Dish.

A lot of work goes into to putting this picnic on.

Please stay around and "help" with the Clean Up.

VVA 862 GOLF SEASON

2015 GOLF SEASON HAS BEGUN

MONDAYS- 3:30 - STONECREST GOLF COURSE
THURSDAYS 3:30 - FOX RUN GOLF COURSE

COME AND JOIN US
IN THIS
FUN GOLF LEAGUE

Contact - Don Vilella 724-843-7401 or Cliff Hawes 724-728-5065



**BEAVER
COUNTY'S
14th
ANNUAL
POW/MIA
RUN**



**IN HONOR OF POW/MIA'S
FROM ALL WARS**

SATURDAY - September 12th, 2015

50-50 RAFFLE

GIFT CERTIFICATES

DOOR PRIZES

**“Donations” WILL BE ACCEPTED
Run will leave the Rochester VFW at
3:00 P.M. “SHARP”**

**Staging will begin at 12:00 Noon
Return to Rochester VFW for an evening of
Fun - Food - DJ - Dancing**

**Any Questions? Contact: Rochester VFW Post 128
179 Virginia Ave
Rochester Pa 15074
724 -774 - 4378
E-mail - vfwpost128@comcast.net**

**“No”
Registration Fee!
*
They've Already
Paid the Price**

"TOGETHER THEN"

Calendar of Events for 2015

"TOGETHER NOW"

August

Aug 1 BCCI Gun Bash - 6:00 PM
 Aug 4 U S Coast Guard Birthday 1790
 Aug 12 VVA BOD Meet 5:00 PM - VVA 862 Meet 7:00 PM
 Aug 14 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 6:00 PM Midland
 VFW Park
 Aug 15 Flag Raising - Beaver Valley Yacht Club. 12:00 PM
 Aug 19 VVA 862 Chapter Picnic - Industry Park
 Aug 21 - 23 Beaver River Regatta (Opening 6:00 PM)
 Aug 25 - 29 "Hookstown Fair" VVA Booth
 Aug 29 VVA 862 "Duck Race" @ Fair 6:00 PM

September

Sept 2 Vets Breakfast Club Seven Oaks C. C. 8:00 AM
 Sept 5 5th Annual Blaine Allinder "Golf Outing"
 Sept 9 VVA 862 BOD Meet - 5:00 PM - VVA Meet 7:00 PM
 Sept 11 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 6:00 PM Midland
 VFW Park
 Sept 12 Alzheimer's Walk Brady's Run Pavilion #3 10 AM
 Sept 12 POW/MIA Ride Registration Starts 1:00 PM
 Leaves Rochester VFW 3:00 PM
 Sept 16 "NO MEETING"
 Sept 16 - 19 33rd Vietnam Vets Reunion - Kokomo In.
 Sept 18 US Air Force Birthday 1947
 Sept 27 "Gold Star Mothers" Day
 Sept 30 Gold Star Mother's Banquet -Wooden Angel 6:PM

October

Oct 3 Highway Clean-Up - Rt 18 9:00 AM (Rink)
 Oct 8 WWII Bus Trip
 Contact Jerry Fisher 724-709-3614
 Oct 9 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland
 VFW
 Oct 10 Rain date for Highway Clean Up
 Oct 13 U S Navy Birthday 1775
 Oct 14 VVA 862 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM Rochester VFW
 Oct 21 AVVA 862 Meeting - 6:00 PM Rochester VFW
 VVA 862 Meeting -7:00 PM

(Just Added)

Oct 25 U.S. NAVY Band 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM
 Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall

Don't Forget:

VVA / AVVA 862 Picnic
Next Wed Aug 19th
Industry Park 3:00 PM

November

Nov 1 Daylight Savings - Ends"
 Nov 3 Election Day "Be Sure to Vote"
 Nov 7- 8 PASC Meeting State College - Ramada
 Nov 10 US Marines Birthday 1775
 Nov 11 **Veterans Day—Parade—New Brighton, Pa.**
 Nov 11 VVA 862 BOD Meeting -7:00 PM Rochester VFW
 Nov 13 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland
 VFW
 Nov 18 AVVA 862 Meeting - 6:00 PM
 VVA 862 Meeting -7:00 PM
 Nov 25 "Happy Thanksgiving"

December

Dec 7 "Pearl Harbor Day" 74 years
 Dec 10 VVA 862 BOD Meeting Rochester VFW 7 PM
 Dec 11 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland
 VFW
 Dec 12 "Wreaths Across America - Gazebo Beaver
 Dec 16 VVA 862 Meeting - 7:00 PM REFRESHMENTS
 Dec 25 "Merry Christmas"
 Dec 31 "New Year's Eve"

Veterans Breakfast Club

Seven Oaks Country Club
Lisbon Rd

DATE: September 2nd, 2015

TIME: 8:00 AM

Mark Your Calendars Now!

**Be sure You Call Todd and make
 your reservation.**

412-623-9029

**VVA 862 will be the sponsors of this
 breakfast. It would be nice if we had a
 great turnout. !**

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANY VETERAN WHO SERVED ANYWHERE DURING THE VIETNAM WAR ERA

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Birthday ___/___/___

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

____ I served in the US military (for other than training purposes) between 8/5/64 & 5/7/75

Or

____ I served in the US military in Vietnam between 2/28/61 and 5/7/75

____ DD-214 enclosed (Applications without DD-214 will be processed as Associate Memberships)

____ Renewal Membership Card # _____ New Member: _____

____ I wish to join the (AVVA) - Associates of the Vietnam Veterans of America \$20.00 P/Year

Type:

- ____ **1 Year Individual Member-** \$20.00 **3 Year-** \$50.00
- ____ **Life Member Optional Time Payment \$50 down/ \$25/mth**
- ____ **\$250.00 (Ages 49 and under)**
- ____ **\$225.00 (Ages 50-55)**
- ____ **\$200.00 (Ages 56-60)**
- ____ **\$175.00 (Ages 61-65)**
- ____ **\$150.00 (Ages 66 +)**



Return this form to:

**GARY SHAFFER
VVA CHAPTER 862
709 OHIO AVE
MIDLAND, PA 15059**

